American Electric Power System
APPALACHIAN POWER CO.
Post Office Box 2021, Roanoke, Virginia 24022
Telephone: area code (703) 985-2300

November 29, 1982

CERTIFIED LETTER

Mr. Ralph Siskind, Esq. 3RC12
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region III
Sixth and Walnut Streets
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

Re: Notice of Violation No. III-83-7-VR
Appalachian Power Company
John E. Amos Plant, Morgans Landing, WV
EPA I.D. No. WVD 98 055 4646

Dear Mr. Siskind:

Pursuant to your telephone conversation with our attorney, John B. Shinnock, we are submitting a copy of our Groundwater Assessment Demonstration Report for the John E. Amos Plant. We do not monitor groundwater at this plant because this Report allows a waiver of such monitoring pursuant to 40 CFR §265.90(c). Therefore, we have not submitted the quarterly reports mentioned in Mr. Bibko's letter of November 17, 1982.

The John E. Amos Plant is a coal-fired electric generating station having two 800 MW units and one 1300 MW unit. In addition to ash ponds, it has a surface impoundment designed to receive liquid waste from the cleaning of the boilers. Each unit is cleaned once every three to five years. Since the federal hazardous waste program became effective in November 1980, no hazardous wastes have been treated in the surface impoundment.

In response to the federal regulations, we filed a Part A Application and listed the impoundment as a TSD facility. This was based on testing results of boiler cleaning wastes from various plants on the American Electric Power System, which show that infrequently the total chromium concentrations approach or exceed the level U. S. EPA identified as a toxic contaminant (D007) at 40 CFR §261.24.

In view of the related facts, we believe that groundwater monitoring is not necessary for several reasons. First, when a cleaning solution (hydroxyacetic formic) is discharged to the impoundment (approximately once per year), it will immediately be mixed with lime or sodium hydroxide. This raises the pH from around three to approximately ten thus precipitating out the chromium. This process occurs very rapidly and thus the solution, even if hazardous, does not long reside in the impoundment. The sludge is not expected to be hazardous based on results from this and other impoundments on the AEP system. Second, underlying the impoundment is approximately 25 feet of clay to act as a liner. Thus the rapidity of neutralization and the presence of a thick clay liner indicates that we are eligible for the waiver in 40 CFR §265.90(c).

There are several other crucial points of information you should consider as you review this matter. First, the waste and impoundment in question are not subject to the State of West Virginia's hazardous waste regulations since the state followed EPA's announced approach of regulating hexavalent chromium as opposed to total chromium. Second, it is widely accepted among both industry and U. S. EPA that hexavalent chromium is the chromium contaminant of concern. U. S. EPA formally acknowledged the need to change the original regulations by publishing the proposed changes, which would regulate only hexavalent chromium, on October 30, 1980 (see 45 Federal Register, 72029). Unfortunately, this change to the regulation has not yet been issued. U. S. EPA indicates the change is imminent and has the amendment scheduled for publication in December 1982 as noted in the Regulatory Agenda published on October 28, 1982 (45 CFR Federal Register, 48747). Finally, it is important to note that when the amendment is issued, we will seriously consider withdrawing our Part A Application because hexavalent chromium is not a concern with our waste stream.

With all of the above in mind, we believe you will find our demonstration adequate to support our eligibility for the waiver. We would be happy to answer questions or meet with you is necessary to resolve any problems.

Sincerely,

Richard E. Northup
Environmental Affairs
Director

REN:dd

Attachments

cc: Mr. John B. Shinnock, Esq.
American Electric Power Service Corporation
Columbus, Ohio